



City Council

Special Meeting

~ Final ~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

5:00 PM

Hybrid Council Chamber

Call to Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on May 28, 2024 at Hybrid Council Chamber, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor	Present	
Lavar Click-Bruce	Ward 5 City Councilor	Present	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Present	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Present	5:10 PM
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Remote	5:02 PM
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor	Present	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Tracye Whitfield	At Large City Councilor	Present	6:21 PM
Maria Perez	Ward 1 City Councilor	Absent	
Michael A. Fenton	President	Present	

Orders

1. Order (ID # 8040)

FY25 Budget - General Fund

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Sarno presented a detailed overview of the FY2025 budget. 5:03pm - 5:29pm

Councilor Tim Allen spoke on the budget process from the perspective of the City Council.

He noted the difficult task of balancing the City budget and the work done by the Mayor, CAFO and City Council. Councilor Allen noted that he has been meeting with the administration specifically CAFO Buono and Deputy CAFO Hackett regarding possible budget cuts.

Councilor Allen noted the concessions agreed on by Mayor Sarno including 1 million dollars from Free Cash. He read a memo submitted by CAFO Buono regarding cost savings possible by not filing 17 vacancies.

Councilor Santaniello asked if the 17 jobs that would be eliminated have been identified.

CAFO Buono noted that Finance would be working with the department heads to identify the vacancies and opportunities for job sharing.

Councilor Govan spoke on the budget and opined that the growth is not sustainable.

She named the homeowners/residents that came before the council in 2023 to speak on the struggles they faced with paying their real estate taxes. She noted that she spoke to former Assessor Richard Allen regarding how tax revenue figures into the overall city budget.

Councilor Click-Bruce spoke on the budget process and meeting with the CAFO and budget team.

Councilor Brown asked if it was possible to do a targeted tax relief. Specifically seniors.

Mayor Sarno responded on what has been done already to facilitate this type of relief.

Assessor Greenhalgh noted the changes that have already occurred to provide increased tax relief to Springfield seniors. He noted a state circuit breaker program available to Springfield homeowners.

Councilor Brown also mentioned the concerns with water and noted that the COS will have to address the issue. Mayor Sarno spoke to the water issue.

Councilor Brown asked for the amount of civilian staff employed at the police department.

Mayor Sarno responded 90.

Councilor Walsh asked about the open positions that were being cut. CAFO Buono gave an explanation regarding the vacancies and which positions will be eliminated.

Councilor Delgado asked "_____"

He asked if there was a limit to the shift between residential/commercial.

He asked about the amounts of consulting fees and if it would be decreased in FY25. He asked if the COS could look at cutting back on consultants that are not statutorily mandated.

He asked about the School Department busing contract and the City side obligation.

Councilor

ATTACHMENTS:

- Schedule A Appendix Doc - FY25 GF (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Fenton
ABSENT:	Victor Davila, Tracye Whitfield, Maria Perez

2. Order (ID # 8041)

FY25 Budget Order - Enterprise Fund

ATTACHMENTS:

- Schedule A Appendix Doc - FY25 EF (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [8 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Santaniello, Edwards, Fenton
ABSENT:	Tracye Whitfield, Maria Perez
AWAY:	Malo Brown, Victor Davila, Sean Curran

3. Order (ID # 8043)

FY25 Budget Order - Revolving Funds

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Fenton
ABSENT:	Tracye Whitfield, Maria Perez
AWAY:	Malo Brown

4. Order (ID # 8042)

FY25 Budget - EF Retained Earnings

RESULT:	ADOPTED [12 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton
ABSENT:	Maria Perez